

**Oroville Facilities Relicensing Efforts
Draft Narrative Reports for PM&E Discussion**

Resource Action: EWG-17
Resource Action: EWG-51

Task Force Recommendation Category: 4
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PM&E Evaluation Team: Richard Harris (comments received from Koll Buer, John Cannon, David Olson and Phil Unger)

Proposed PM&E:

EWG-17 and EWG-51 are essentially the same Resource Action (PM&E), and therefore, are being presented together. The proposed Resource Action would “Enhance riparian vegetation and trees along banks for shading and increased habitat complexity.” Locations for the proposed Resource Action are not specified except as follows: “One location for vegetation enhancement could be ‘trailer park riffle’, although high-water events may require continued maintenance and/or improvement.”

EWG-17 and EWG-51 have been interpreted to mean undertaking plantings or other vegetation management to improve riparian vegetation conditions at specific sites. The criteria for selecting sites have not been defined but might focus on the ability to improve habitat for rearing salmonids.

Related PM&Es:

There are a number of Resource Actions that are either similar to or potentially complementary to this PM&E. They include: EWG-13A, EWG-13B, and EWG-20 (LWD placement); EWG-19A, EWG-22, and EWG-89 (geomorphic treatments for creation of riparian habitat); EWG-16A and EWG-16B (enhancement or creation of side channel habitat); and EWG-61 and EWG-66 (developing flow management strategies).

Recommendations:

Incremental or small-scale riparian enhancement or restoration measures are not likely to provide substantial benefits to the Feather River corridor. Experience has shown that local restoration and enhancement projects also have high probabilities of failure if they do not fully account for ecological and geomorphic constraints. Therefore, a comprehensive riparian enhancement program for the entire Feather River corridor would be required. The scope of such an effort would be beyond the scope of the FERC boundary and beyond DWR’s obligation for protection, mitigation or enhancement.

In order to implement a large-scale riparian enhancement or restoration program, a number of small-scale resource actions would likely be developed into a synergistic approach. Therefore, Resource Actions EWG-17 and EWG-51 have been recommended as a Category 4. It is also suggested that EWG 16a and EWG 16b include specific consideration of establishing and evaluating small efforts to create or sustain riparian canopy adjacent to side-channel improvements or creation. This would require assessments of current conditions throughout the study area, prioritization and identification of restoration and enhancement needs, and implementation of a project over time (potentially a long time) that will result in a more properly functioning riparian system.

These reports are for discussion purposes only, and do not denote support by the EWG Collaborative.